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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. FUNDERBURK].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 15, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable DAVID FUNDERBURK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] for 5 minutes.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Mr. MICA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I come before the House this morning to set the record straight, to provide you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, with correct information on statements that have been made about comments that I made on the floor in the regulatory reform debate which took place recently in the House of Representatives during our debate on the Contract With America, and specifically on the regulatory reform issues that came before this Congress.

In this Congress and during the past Congress, I have been an outspoken

critic of the manner and conduct of the regulatory process at the Federal level. Quite frankly, I came here several years ago believing that the regulatory edicts and mandates sent out by the Federal Government had overreached their bounds, had imposed undue burdens and costs on our citizens, on our local governments, on business and industry, and were eating at the very fabric of productivity and competitiveness in this country.

During the debate on the question of regulatory reform, I stood at that podium and I talked about several instances of what I considered excess regulation and regulatory overkill.

I used several examples, and two of the examples I used were actually from my local dentist, who when I was in his dental chair and in his dental office had told me several years ago about some of the excesses of certain Federal departments and agencies, and how he felt imposed upon by those agencies and how he was constricted by those agencies, and at least felt the pressures of those agencies on his practice and on his professional conduct.

So I made those comments in the regulatory reform debate in the House, and shortly thereafter "ABC News" and Peter Jennings and company made a little series, and I wanted to report to the House on that series, and also on the response. The people of the United States and Congress tuned into the "ABC News" and heard a certain response, and I never got an opportunity. You know, they interview you for, in this case, about an hour of tape, and then they take little segments out, and then they put on the national news those segments.

Interestingly enough, and as Paul Harvey said, there is a little bit more. Here is the rest of the story. I want to present that to the House this morning.

Let me quote from the National Review, and I did not prompt their doing

this piece or I did not ask them to look into this matter. It just appeared, and some of my constituents sent it to me. But let me quote exactly from it. I will read it.

Hot on the heels of the GOP's capture of Congress, ABC World News Tonight has unveiled a new segment, "For the Record," designed to ferret out congressmen who engage in exaggeration, false statistics, misleading anecdotes, and other evils. The inaugural segment focused on Representative John Mica (R., Fla.), who alleged that certain Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations forbid kids to take pulled teeth home from the dentist, and that others compel dentists to keep logs for possession and disposal of white-out. Wild congressional exaggeration, right? Actually, OSHA's Blood Borne Pathogen Standard labels bodily tissues as biohazards. Teeth are considered tissue, and technically must therefore be placed in a red bag and picked up by a licensed disposer. Furthermore, because certain brands of white-out contain toluene, OSHA requires that Manufacturers Safety Data Sheets be kept in office files. Dr. Edward Stein, a health scientist at OSHA, says that white-out's levels of toluene are far below those which concern OSHA and that the requirement does not pertain to offices with fewer than 10 people. However, he concedes that if an individual in an office with fewer than 10 people filed a complaint about white-out, OSHA would be free to investigate. As for the teeth? A dentist in the Northeast refused to return a tooth to a 6-year-old boy because he was concerned about the health regulation. OSHA's unofficial position is that this was unnecessary. However, the regulation does require such action. For the Record.

In conclusion, this story by National Review does set the record straight, and that is, my colleagues, the rest of the story.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 12 noon.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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